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Creating an International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE)

Rebecca L. Johnson¹ and Edward C. Jensen²

Representatives from four major universities (Australian National University, University of British Columbia, Oregon State University, and Yale University) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are actively assessing the need for, and potential structure of, a new International Partnership for Forestry Education (IPFE). Recent meetings at the XII World Forestry Congress helped refine the mission and expand the partnership to include representatives of universities and other institutions with educational missions from across Europe, Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. Start-up funds from the World Bank have been used to help develop pilot projects directed at improving forestry and natural resources education around the world.

The purpose of this presentation is to broaden the discussion to include more North American universities, to identify how other universities would like to be involved, and to generate ideas for future IPFE activities.

We will share:

History and mission of IPFE.

How it complements and expands on existing international forestry education activities.

A list of current partners (universities and international institutions whose missions include forestry education).

Pilot projects currently funded by IPFE, aimed at increasing the capacity of partner institutions to conduct broad-spectrum forestry education.

How to become a partner.

We will solicit from participants in this discussion:

Feedback on the current direction of the partnership.

Ideas on how this partnership can add value to international activities already being conducted by North American universities.

Thoughts on how this partnership can stimulate ideas, activities, and relationships not already on someone's agenda.

Ideas generated during this discussion will be shared with existing partners during our next meeting in April 2004.

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